



HAND TOOL FOR MOTOR VEHICLE

SPECIFICATION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention pertains to a ~~handling device placed tool~~
5 for use in a vehicle.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Vehicles of all kinds (especially those whose passenger
area is at least partially enclosed), in particular passenger
cars, require a number of small tools or items be available to
10 the driver and passengers ~~[[;]]~~. These are items not necessarily
directly related to the motion of the vehicle. For instance,
these items might be used only in specific situations or might
make the ride more comfortable for the driver.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

15 It is the task of this invention to provide a
possibility of accommodating such ~~hand ling device~~ tools in a
simple manner.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 In accordance with the invention, for a vehicle of the
type described above this task is solved such that the ~~hand ling~~
~~device tool~~ is a ~~hand ling device~~ tool attached in a removable
manner to ~~[[the]]~~ a partition or wall of the vehicle by means of
a fastener.

25 With this arrangement of the ~~hand ling device~~ tool, the
driver or vehicle occupant can quickly grasp the ~~hand ling device~~

tool; on the other hand, the hand ~~ling device~~ tool has a fixed place. This considerably reduces the risk of mislaying the hand ~~ling device~~ tool, compared to a hand ~~ling device~~ tool which cannot be fastened in the vehicle. Also, in this manner the vehicle can be tidied up quickly. The users of the vehicle can quickly become used to the notion that the hand ~~ling device~~ tool has a fixed place; hence, they can grasp it at any time when needed, without having to search for it.

~~Advantageous extensions of the invention result from the subclaims and from the description, in particular in conjunction with the drawings.~~

A hand ~~ling device~~ tool is especially appropriate which is located in or above a recess or indentation in the wall. In this manner, the hand ~~ling device~~ tool hides a storage space in which further objects can be accommodated.

The ~~handling object~~ tool can be attached permanently while being easily and quickly removable if it is affixed to the wall by means of a snap-on connection or by means of magnetic elements.

It is advantageous to place the hand ~~ling device~~ tool in the area of the center console of a vehicle. Objects ~~[[which]]~~ that the driver occasionally requires during the ride can be located in a recess or indentation in the center console.

The hand ~~ling device~~ tool can be attached optically inconspicuously or not at all visibly if the hand ~~ling device~~ tool has tabs or snap-on notches on a side wall or on a side

facing the recess, and if these tabs or snap-on notches interact with snap-on notches or snap-on recesses at the recess.

If the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool features is provided with at least one opening for handling, then the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool can be grasped easily, without requiring the user to remove the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool from its fastener by means of focused pressure.

It is advantageous to design the opening for handling such that its diameter corresponds at least partially to the diameter of a cup - especially for a beverage, a common beverage bottle, a beverage can, or similar object. As an alternative, the opening for handling has a larger diameter. This makes it possible to grasp next to a beverage can or beverage bottle placed in the opening for handling. The opening for handling has either a circular or elliptical contour. Any other shape for the opening for handling is also imaginable.

The opening for handling features is provided with a partial lip made of elastic material, or a lip made of such material ~~[[which]]~~ that runs around the entire circumference. This lip ensures that an object (especially a beverage) can be held tightly and without making noise.

A further possibility for easing grasping of the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool is for it to have an indentation on its outer lateral contour, by means of which the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool can be grasped.

This invention deals in particular with a handling device to which a tool (especially that is an ice scraper, a screwdriver, a bottle opener, or similar object) ~~is attached~~. Also, a light fixture (in particular a light-emitting diode and/or a coin holder) can be ~~attached to~~ provided on the ~~handling device tool~~.

Such a tool can be used ~~in the area of~~ around the vehicle, or a passenger can use it there for his or her own purposes, such as in order to open a bottle or can.

A hand ~~ling device tool~~ is advantageous which ~~features that is provided with~~ a first lip protruding from its outer lateral contour. This first lip is made of hard plastic, with a sharp outer edge. During frost conditions, this lip is used to remove ice from the window panes of the vehicle. Additionally or as an alternative, a lip made of a rubbery-elastic material is used which is suitable for removing moisture from the window panes.

This second lip is placed, for instance, on the opposing narrow side of the hand ~~ling device tool~~, or above or below the first lip.

The first lip ~~features~~ is provided with corrugations, especially on one side, in order to scrape ice or snow from the outer side of a pane of the vehicle in a corrugated pattern.

As an alternative or additionally, a snow brush can be included. It can be placed, for example, on the narrow side of the ~~handling device, tool~~ opposite to the lip.

As an alternative or additionally, it is advantageous to ~~[[have]]~~ provide the ~~handling device feature~~ tool with a notch, for instance approximately in the middle of its externally accessible surface. This notch can serve to hold a coin or
5 bottle opener.

An advantageous design is to have the ~~hand ling device~~ tool consist of two flat elements which are joined together and cannot be taken apart. By ~~tailoring~~ appropriately shaping the contour of the elements in the region where they join, any
10 desired tools can be placed between these two elements. The tools protrude from the ~~hand ling device~~ tool.

In a variant, the ~~hand ling device~~ tool features is provided with at least one lip and/or plate placed between these elements and protruding laterally outward.

15 A ~~hand ling device~~ tool is especially appropriate with which a battery or rechargeable battery and a light fixture are placed between the elements. This way, the ~~hand ling device~~ tool can serve as an orientation aid in the darkness; it itself can be found easily, because it has a fixed location and can always be
20 found again. If the batteries snap into the ~~hand ling device~~ tool from its underside, then they can be removed and replaced when they are discharged. Rechargeable batteries accessible from the underside via contact surfaces can be recharged via them by placement in a charger, if the rechargeable batteries cannot be
25 removed from the ~~hand ling device~~ tool.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the invention will become more readily apparent from the following description, reference being made to the accompanying drawing in which:

5 FIG. 1 is a ~~bird's-eye~~ top view of the center console of a motored motor vehicle, equipped with a recess and a hand ~~ling-device~~ tool covering the recess,

10 FIG. 2 is a perspective drawing of the center console in accordance with FIG. 1, with the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool removed,

 FIG. 3 is an isometric drawing, exploded view with the individual parts shown separately,

 FIG. 4 is a ~~cutaway-view~~ section along ~~an intersection~~ line IV - IV from FIG. 1,

15 FIG. 5 is a ~~cutaway-view~~ section along ~~an intersection~~ line V - V from FIG. 1,

 FIG. 6 is a ~~cutaway-view~~ section along ~~an intersection~~ line VI - VI from FIG. 1, and

20 FIG. 7 is a ~~cutaway-view~~ section along ~~an intersection~~ line VII - VII from FIG. 1.

SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION

25 A carrier 1 (FIG. 1) for a center console is arranged in a passenger car between the driver's seat and the front passenger's seat. It extends in the direction of travel. The rear part of the carrier 1 has only side walls 2 and 3, ~~which~~

that can be placed on another component not shown here, such as an arm rest.

The front part of the carrier 1 has a cover 4 (FIG. 3) with an opening 5 (FIG. 3) for accepting receiving a tub-shaped insert 6. The insert 6 has a bottom 7 (FIG. 4) extending in the longitudinal direction of the center console. Both of its sides are narrow in the middle. The insert 6 also has a wall 8 (FIG. 4) running upward, essentially vertically or sloped slightly outward. A lateral rim 10 is connected to the wall 8 via a ledge 9 (FIGS. 3 - 7). The rim 10 protrudes beyond the cover 4, while the ledge 9 lies on a surface 11 ~~lowered from~~ recessed in the cover 4.

In order to ensure that the user cannot sever the connection between the insert 6 and the carrier 1 of the center console, the underside of insert 6 features is provided with latches 12. When the insert 6 is inserted into the carrier 1, these latches 12 snap into ~~[[the]]~~ corresponding notches 13.

A hand ~~ling device~~ tool 14 (FIG. 2) shaped essentially like the bottom 7 lies on the ledge 9. The hand ~~ling device~~ tool 14 is connected with the insert 6, preferably by means of a fastener. A lug 15 ~~[[,]]~~ (FIG. 3) on a narrow side of the hand ~~ling device~~ tool 14, is used as the fastener. In the wall of the insert 6 above the ledge 9 and the rim 10, there is a depression 15a which forms an undercut. The lug 15 locks into this depression 15a.

On the narrow side across from the lug 15 or near this side, the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool 14 also features is provided with notches or similar items. They can be pulled out of their locked-in position or inserted, by means of pressure (for instance when the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool 14 is pulled out). Hence the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool 14 is fastened to the ledge 9 and cannot be lost, since it is held in the depression 15a and due to by the notches.

As an alternative, a snap-together joint or a number of snap-together joints can be included, ~~which~~ that are arranged in the area of the edge of hand ~~ling-device~~ tool 14 and which elastically give way when the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool 14 is pulled out.

As an alternative to the snap-together joints for fastening the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool 14 on the ledge 9, magnetic elements can be placed on the lower part 17; they are attracted by related magnetic elements in particular in the area of the ledge 9.

For ~~optical~~ appearance reasons, the magnetic elements are arranged between ~~[[the]]~~ an upper part 16 and a lower part 17 such that they are externally invisible. Similarly, the related, permanently mounted magnetic elements in the area of the center console can be placed such that they are externally invisible.

Since the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool 14 can be removed from the insert 6, objects such as a cell phone, a pack of cigarettes or a eyeglasses case can be placed inside.

The ~~hand ling device tool~~ tool 14 consists of ~~[[an]] the~~ upper part 16 and the lower part 17, which are basically structured in an identical manner. They are preferably made of hard plastic, such as polypropylene, or they are made of metal.

5 The lower part 17 can be made of a different kind of material than the upper part 16.

The upper part 16 and the lower part 17 are both ~~penetrated by~~ formed with throughgoing openings 18 ~~[[,]] and~~ 19 for inserting beverage cans, beverage bottles and drinking vessels. Lips 20 protruding into the openings 18 ~~[[,]] and~~ 19 consist of elastic material, such as rubber. They make it possible to securely hold the object inserted in one of the openings 18 ~~[[,]] or~~ 19 without vibration ~~[[s]]~~, and they suppress noise ~~[[s]]~~ between the object and insert 6 as well as

15 the ~~hand ling device tool~~ tool 14.

It is advantageous for the lug 15 to be formed as a hard rubber lip, ~~which~~ that can be used as an ice scraper. In one version, the lug 15 is placed between the lower part 17 and the upper part 16 such that it can be removed by lateral sliding

20 whenever it is to be replaced by an element for ice scraping. Corrugations (not shown here) can be placed on the underside of ~~handling the device~~ the device 14, in particular near one of the narrow sides, ~~it is suitable~~ for scraping ice when very hard ice adheres to a window pane of the vehicle. Also, a soft lip can be

25 placed on the narrow side of ~~hand ling device tool~~ tool 14 opposite to the lug 15.

A light-emitting diode 21 is placed provided on the side opposite to the lug 15 ~~[[; it]]~~ and is supplied with electrical power by batteries 22 in the form of button cells. The batteries 22 either last the entire useful life of the light-emitting diode 21, so upper part 16 and lower part 17 can be joined ~~unseverably~~ inseparably during manufacture. ~~[[Or]]~~ Alternately these two elements can be joined by means of ~~severable~~ separable snap-together joints in such a manner that the batteries 22 ~~[[or]]~~ , which can be rechargeable, batteries can be replaced. The light-emitting diode 21 is operated by means of operating button 27 (FIG. 6) placed on the surface of the upper part 16 near the narrow side.

If the undersides of the batteries 22 ~~[[is]]~~ are flush with the lower surface of hand ~~ling-device~~ tool 14, ~~[[then]]~~ they can be removed from below.

Between the openings 18 ~~[[,]]~~ and 19, the hand ~~ling~~ device tool 14 features is provided with a ridge 23 (FIG. 4) in which a depression 24 is placed formed. A spring 25 (preferably blade-shaped) is located at the bottom of the depression 24. An object can be placed in the depression, in particular a flat, round object such as a coin or a ~~[[chip]]~~ token 25a for a shopping cart. The spring presses this object against a lateral lug 26 ~~, which~~ that prevents the object from springing out due to the vehicle's vibration ~~[[s]]~~. Instead of the spring 25, the upper part 16 of the hand ~~ling-device~~ tool 14 can feature have a depression for accepting the coin or several coins. The lug 26

can be crescent shaped, for example, and can be formed as a bottle opener or also and serve as a bottle opener.

Various tools can be placed in the area of the lateral edges or on a surface of handling the device 14 formed by the lower part 16 or the upper part 17. These tools can be arranged in a manner allowing them to be unfolded, like for common multifunction [[al]] tools. The hand ~~ling~~ device tool 14 features a recess is provided with cutouts 30 [[,]] and 31 in the middle of its long sides. With the recessed shape, it can be easily held in one hand.

An elastic [[ally]] cushion [[ing]] pad 28 (FIG. 7) is placed provided on the bottom 7 of the insert 6. Thus, a beverage can 29 laterally supported by the lips 20 is held elastically and does not cause noise [[s]] even when the vehicle vibrates.

Of course, a hand ~~ling~~ device tool 14 explained as described using a center console can be placed at other locations in a vehicle.